

Project Proposal

Proposal Title: Circleville Cove

Proposal Number: 1420

DWR Region: Southern Region

Lead Agency: BLM

County: Garfield

Project Manager: Shawn Peterson

PM Phone: 4358656113

Regional Priority: Within Focus Area

Project Type: Terrestrial Habitat

Proposed Start Date: 8/15/2009

Project Location: 2 miles south of Circleville Utah.

Project Description: 1000 acre harrow or chain of decadent sagebrush stand in deer winter range near Circleville.

Description of Problem/Need: The Circleville Cove area is comprised of old decadent sagebrush with no age class diversity and little to no forb or grass component. Washes in the area are down-cutting and erosion is occurring. The even age class decadent sagebrush with no herbaceous understory increases the risk of catastrophic wildfire, thus threatening the community of Circleville. A catastrophic wildfire could also increase the risk of invasive species, cause loss of habitat, and increase erosion.

Objectives: Increase age class structure and diversity of sagebrush
Increase grass and forb frequency by 25% from existing condition
Decrease hazardous fuel loading

Relevance to Strategic Plans: This project is located in Shrub steppe habitat. Shrub steppe habitats cover over 13 percent of Utah's surface, making them among the most abundant habitats in the state. While shrub steppe areas still remain across the state, they are in poor condition and sagebrush plants in particular are not as healthy as they once were. Mule deer also are closely connected to shrub steppe habitats, especially in winter. The project area is located in a focus area as crucial mule deer and elk winter range. Crucial habitats depend on periodic fires to stay healthy. Fire control efforts and invasive species have disrupted this natural cycle in the project area, leaving an even age stand of decadent sagebrush with little to no understory of grasses and forbs.

The proposal complies with the following WAP Conservation Strategies:

1. Permanently protect certain key shrubsteppe habitats and restore degraded habitats wherever possible.
3. Reintroduce natural fire patterns through prescribed burns and by reducing populations of invasive species. (this would be accomplished through treatments)
4. Research and monitor shrubsteppe habitats. (Nested frequency monitoring pre and post would occur).
5. Establish partnerships with state and federal agencies and private landowners to address threats to shrubsteppe (This project would be jointly planned by UDWR and BLM).
6. Enforce OHV regulations; educate OHV users about the need to appropriately operate their OHVs. (The New Kanab RMP precluded cross country OHV travel in the project area).

Project Relevance to other planning documents:

This project is in conformance with the Kanab Field Office Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (RMP), Signed October, 31 2008. VEG-30, 32, 33, 35. SOL-3.

The proposed treatment is consistent with Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Decision #FW-01, which states: 1) that BLM will manage suitable public land habitats for the recovery or reestablishment of native populations through collaborative planning with local, state, and federal agencies, user groups, and interested publics; and 2) that BLM will also seek to limit additional adverse impacts to crucial habitats on public lands from urbanization and encroachment to preserve the integrity of wildlife corridors and migration routes and access to key forage areas.

The proposed project is consistent with the Southern Utah Support Area Fire Management Plan dated September 9, 2004, which states that 1000 acres or sagebrush be converted from a Fire Regime Condition Class 3 to a Fire Regime Condition Class 1 or 2.

Potential Risks: If the seeding doesn't take there may be a window of opportunity for invasive species to become established at the site.

Proposed Methods: Treat approximately 1000 acres within identified 2800 acres. This project would be accomplished by mechanically thinning (harrow or chain) decadent sagebrush. Areas would remain untreated and left as islands and corridors, creating a mosaic pattern of treated and untreated vegetation. Treated areas would be seeded with a mix of native and non-native species appropriate for the site. UDWR would rent necessary equipment to pull the harrow or chain and the work would be completed in house by BLM employees. UDWR would contract for aerial application of seed if necessary.

Shapefile Name: S:/DWR/HPD-2010/GIS Shape Files/1420.shp

Seed Source: GBRC

UPCD Reg Team Coord Date:

Monday, March 16, 2009 1:42:40 PM

Project Proposal

**Proposed
NEPA Action:**

**Proposed
Arch Action:**

☒ **Vegetation Monitoring** ☐ **Wildlife Monitoring**

Monitoring Information: Existing: Currently a rain gauge and Nested Frequency plot are located in the project area.
Future: Rain gauge data will be read quarterly each year. Frequency studies will be read yearly for 3 years. Data will be summarized each year and placed in project files. Frequency will then be read once every 3-5 years by Kanab Field Office. Success will be determined by the site having 25% or greater frequency of seeded perennial species by fall of 2012.

Grazing Management: Areas seeded within the Cove Allotment would be rested from grazing for a minimum of two completed growing season in order to allow the seedlings to become established and set seed.

SPECIES BENEFITING

Mule Deer	Elk	Pygmy Rabbit	Greater Sage-grouse
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LAND OWNERSHIP

Owner	Acres
BLM	1000
Total	1000

PROPOSED FUNDING

Source	Amount Requested	Date Approved	Amount Approved
BLM	\$0.00		\$77,000.00
BLM ARRA	\$30,000.00	3/12/2009	\$30,000.00
Totals	\$30,000.00		\$107,000.00

PROPOSED BUDGET

Item	Description	DWR Account	Partner Contrib.
Equipment Rental	Rental of CATS or Tractor	\$15,000.00	\$0.00
Other	Seed purchased by BLM	\$0.00	\$77,000.00
Contractual Services	Aerial Seeding contract for 1000 acres	\$15,000.00	\$0.00
	Totals	\$30,000.00	\$77,000.00

Project Map:

